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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 2:43pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I believe the current settlement is overly weak, and does not answer most of the antitrust issues relevant to the current market situation. At this point, the only real remaining competitors to Microsoft's operating systems monopoly are Macintosh and Linux. Microsoft is keeping Apple in its back pocket through its Office monopoly. The wording of the settlement does absolutely nothing to prevent Microsoft from continuing antitrust tactics against Linux. It is absolutely critical that Microsoft be forced to publically open its protocols and proprietary file formats. If getting access to the specs requires NDAs or a strong commercial presence, it is completely pointless, as free/open source software cannot respect those NDAs. NDAs do nothing to protect Microsoft's legitimate actions, as the reason for releasing those specs is so its competitors can develop competing products.

The rest of the settlement seems far too weak as well. Microsoft pushed achieved its monopoly position through illegal antitrust tactics. It continues to use illegal tactics to hold this position. It is absolutely critical that the government take real action to, at the very least, stop Microsoft from continuing these tactics, and ideally, make remedies for actions already taken. The current settlement doesn't even stop Microsoft from continuing.

Quite frankly, I'm fed up with the repeated antitrust lawsuits against Microsoft, resulting in only changes no longer relevant to the current marketplace. It's critical that the actions taken this time around be stronger, and flexible enough to match the current market; not just that of five years ago.

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